

**U.S. Department of Labor  
Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO)  
Youth Opportunity Grants (YOG) Technical Assistance Update**

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The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Office of Youth Services/Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO) brings you the Youth Opportunity Grant (YOG) Technical Assistance Update. On a bi-weekly basis, the update will provide important announcements and information for YOG sites, partners, and coaches.

Please let us know if these updates are useful to you and how it might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have information or items to contribute, or topics that you would like see covered, please contact Susan Rosenblum, Office of Youth Opportunities, at [srosenblum@doleta.gov](mailto:srosenblum@doleta.gov) or (202) 693-3597.

***Save the Date!! Year 3 Youth Opportunity Grant Partners Conference to be Held May 1-3, 2002 – Tampa, FL***

The Year 3 Youth Opportunity Grant (YOG) Partners Conference is scheduled for May 1-3, 2002 in Tampa, FL. There will be a separate project directors meeting on April 30. More details to come.....

***Department of Justice Withdraws Young Offender Initiative: Reentry Grant Program Solicitation – Will Re-Issue at a Future Date***

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, has notified applicants for the Young Offender Initiative: Reentry Grant Program that they have officially withdrawn the solicitation that was due on October 9, 2001. The Department announced that they will re-issue the solicitation in the future. The new grant announcement will add the Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development to the existing federal partnership that includes the Departments of Justice, Labor, and Health and Human Services. You can read the Department of Justice's official statement on the Internet at:

[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/whats\\_new.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/whats_new.htm). **NOTE:** The decision by the Department of Justice does not affect the Department of Labor's Young Offender Initiative: Demonstration Grant Program at this time.

### ***PEPNet Releases 2002 Application – Due April 18, 2002***

PEPNet, the Promising and Effective Practices Network, has released its 7th annual PEPNet Application for recognition of youth employment and youth development programs. The application is designed to encourage youth initiatives to improve their programming and to promote better programs nationwide by identifying those exemplary initiatives that help youth succeed. Programs that serve youth 14 - 25 may apply. The deadline for applications is April 18, 2002. You can obtain a free copy of the PEPNet 2002 Application and Criteria Workbook, along with all of PEPNet's tools, on the Internet at <http://www.nyec.org/pepnet>. You may also request a hard copy by sending a fax request at (202) 659-0399 or email [pm@nyec.org](mailto:pm@nyec.org).

### ***A Dallas-Denver Region IV Youth Investment Summit - December 11-13, 2001***

The U.S. Department of Labor, Dallas-Denver Region IV, announces a youth summit, "Creating A Comprehensive Youth Investment Strategy: A Community Center Approach," in Denver, CO, December 11-13, 2001. The event will be held in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, School & Main Institute, and the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition. A \$75.00 per person registration fee will cover equipment, continental breakfast, lunch and breaks each day and an evening reception on Tuesday.

The Summit is intended for community teams to specifically focus on positioning their communities to build a youth investment system with a foundation of local workforce investment strategies, youth focused initiatives and education reform efforts that promote student rigor, performance and success. Trained Summit facilitators assigned to each team will include a wide network of practitioner experts in the fields of workforce development, educational improvement, youth, community and partnership development, and related areas. More information is available on the Internet at: <http://www.doleta.gov/regions/reg04/hot/youth%20development.htm>.

### ***Social Security Administration (SSA) Announces Youth Conferences***

The Office of Employment Support Programs (OESP), one of the Social Security Administration's first initiatives designed to help with the development of transition to work strategies for youth, announces three one-day conferences. These meetings will focus on how to improve transition systems for youth who receive Social Security Disability (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. The three conference dates are:

November 28, 2001 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 December 5, 2001 San Francisco, California  
 December 11, 2001 Washington, DC.

For more information, contact Cheryl Tyson, (301) 270-0841 or e-mail: [ctyson@afyainc.com](mailto:ctyson@afyainc.com).

### ***School-to-Work Resources On-Line!***

Are you familiar with School-to-Work (STW)? STW is a means of attaining high academic standards through contextual, applied, and focused learning? To help students direct their education, STW encourages, among other things, exposure to a broad variety of career options -- starting with speakers and field trips in elementary school and progressing to academically connected internships in a high school student's field of interest. The underlying goal is to provide students with knowledge and skills that will allow them to opt for college, additional training, or a well-paying job directly out of high school.

The STW web site, <http://www.stw.ed.gov> offers a range of resources for youth development programs. Recent additions include information on Internet sites related to community service (Kids Involved Doing Service) and project-based learning (George Lucas Educational Foundation's Project-based Learning Website). See these and more at: <http://www.stw.ed.gov/new.htm>.

### ***National Conference Explores New Models for Serving At-Risk Youth***

The Center for National Policy (CNP), a nonprofit, non-partisan public policy organization, held a one-day conference last month, "New Approaches to Programs for At-Risk Youth with Promise: A Search for Effective National Models." The conference concluded that a number of mostly private-sector, non-profit programs have begun to show promise in dealing with the seemingly intractable problem of repeat – sometimes violent – juvenile offenders. Skills training and job placement are key components of these programs. A more detailed summary of the conference is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.cnponline.org/Issue%20Briefs/Statelines/statelin0101.htm>.

### ***American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) Report Cites 20 Successful Programs for Raising Academic Achievement for America's Youth***

*RAISING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH: A Study of 20 Successful Programs*, by Sonia Jurich and Steve Estes, highlights 20 models of excellence in raising academic achievement and provides a highly useful guide for policymakers, educators and youth development practitioners in their work toward a better future for American youth. The 20 examples were drawn from the 95 youth initiatives included in AYPF's two previous publications on successful youth programs: *Some Things DO Make a Difference for Youth* and *MORE Things That DO Make a Difference for Youth*. Evaluations included in the new book show evidence of success on multiple measures of academic achievement, such as test scores, high school graduation rates, and college enrollment and retention.

Copies are available for \$5.00 each in limited numbers from the American Youth Policy Forum,

1836 Jefferson Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-2505 including postage in the contiguous United States. All others should call 202-775-9731 for shipping costs. All orders must be prepaid by check or money order. Federal ID #31-1576455. ISBN # 1-887031-64-2.

### ***Reminder – Deadline for YO Film Contest is March 1, 2002***

YO! Sites are invited to submit up to two (2) youth produced videos by March 1, 2002 to the national Office of Youth Services, ETA/DOL for a national competition. Films can be entered in each of two categories: My Community and General Open Competition. Award winners will be announced at the 3<sup>rd</sup> year Youth Opportunity Grant meeting in May in Tampa, Florida. Entry rules and application will be sent to all YO! Project Directors and Federal Project. This contest is for YO! sites only. For more information, please contact Anne Stom at [astom@doleta.gov](mailto:astom@doleta.gov)

***Notification of Funding:*** Periodically, we will make you aware of large grants that have been awarded in Youth Opportunity communities and encourage YO! grantees to connect with the organizations who have received the funding. At the very least, you will be making more individuals/organizations in your community aware of the work that is being done through YO! and in the process, identify natural collaborations that will assist you in the work that you do. Listed below are three large grants that directly impact the work that we are doing with youth.

### ***FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES***

#### ***Oracle Creates Foundation to Increase Internet Access Among Disadvantaged Youth***

Database software company Oracle Corporation ( <http://www.oracle.com/> ) has announced a commitment of \$6 million toward the creation of the Oracle Help Us Help Foundation.

The foundation will work to increase Internet access among disadvantaged youth by providing computer equipment and software to public schools and nonprofits. The foundation has already approved 40 grant packages that include Internet appliances -- computers whose primary function is accessing the Internet -- and laser printers to schools and youth organizations in California, Colorado, Utah, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. More information is available on the Internet at: <http://www.helpushelp.org>.

### ***IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER***

#### **December**

**December 5-7, 2001:** Second Annual Region V Youth Development Conference: Chicago Marriott Downtown Hotel, Chicago, IL. For more information, see <http://www.doleta.gov/regions/reg05/Home/index.cfm>.

**December 11-13:** Dallas-Denver Region IV, announces a youth summit, “Creating A Comprehensive Youth Investment Strategy: A Community Center Approach.” For more information, see: <http://www.doleta.gov/regions/reg04/hot/youth%20development.htm>.

**December 13-14, 2001:** PEPNet Institute, Washington, DC. For more information, go to [www.nyec.org](http://www.nyec.org).

**December 16 - 21 in San Diego, California:** Youth Opportunity Grants Leadership Institute

## **2002**

**January 28 – 30: Youth Opportunity Grants Peer-to-Peer Training -** The Nuts and Bolts of the College Preparation and Admissions Process in Baltimore, MD. For more details please contact Anne Stom at (202) 693-3377 or [astom@doleta.gov](mailto:astom@doleta.gov).

**March 20-23:** National Service Learning Conference at the Seattle Convention Center. Applications are available on the NYLC web site at: <http://www.nylc.org/conference2002/>

**April 18:** Deadline for Seventh Annual PEPNet Award Recognition. Applications are available on the National Youth Employment Coalition web site: <http://www.nyec.pepnet>.

**May 1-3:** Year 3 Youth Opportunity Grant Partners Meeting – Tampa, FL.